

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) Steam iron (1) having a heating soleplate (2), a steam chamber (3), a part (8) having multiple functions constituting at the same time a heat shield and a skirt (85) of the iron, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the part (8) having multiple functions constitutes at least in part the steam chamber (3) above the soleplate (2), the part having multiple functions further comprises a downwardly extending rib that limits the steam chamber laterally, and the iron further comprises at least one seal between the rib and the soleplate.

2. (Previously presented) Steam iron according to claim 1, having a water reservoir (4), wherein said reservoir has a bottom, constituted by the part (8) with multiple functions.

3. (Original) Steam iron according to claim 1 characterized in that the part (8) having multiple functions is of heat resistant plastic.

4. (Original) Steam iron according to claim 3 characterized in that the plastic of the multifunction part (8) is a polyester or a polysulfone.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) Steam iron according to claim 4 characterized in that the at least one seal is an  
~~multifunction part (8) is in contact with the soleplate (2)~~  
~~through elastomer foam seals~~seal (84).

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) Steam iron according to claim 3 characterized in that the at least one seal is an  
~~multifunction part (8) is in contact with the soleplate (2)~~  
~~through elastomer foam seals~~seal (84).

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) Steam iron according to claim 2 characterized in that the at least one seal is an

~~multifunction part (8) is in contact with the soleplate (2)~~  
~~through elastomer foam seals~~seal (84).

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) Steam iron according to  
claim 1 characterized in that the at least one seal is an  
~~multifunction part (8) is in contact with the soleplate (2)~~  
~~through elastomer foam seals~~seal (84).